

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Francisco Division

GRETCHEN GUND,

Plaintiff,

v.

KOHL'S INC.,

Defendant .

Case No. [25-cv-02121-LB](#)

**CASE-MANAGEMENT AND
PRETRIAL ORDER (JURY)**

The court held a case-management conference on May 29, 2025, and issues this case-management and pretrial order.

I. GENERALLY APPLICABLE RULES

Parties must comply with the procedures in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the local rules, the general orders, Judge Beeler's standing order, and the Northern District's general standing order for civil cases titled "Contents of Joint Case Management Statement." Local rules, general orders, general standing orders, and a summary of the general orders' electronic filing requirements (including the procedures for emailing proposed orders to chambers) are available at <http://www.cand.uscourts.gov> (click "Rules" or "ECF-PACER").

II. CASE-MANAGEMENT AND TRIAL DATES

All hearings will be held in Courtroom B, 15th Floor, U.S. District Court, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California. The following are the disclosure, filing, and hearing dates:

Case Event	Filing Date/Disclosure Deadline/Hearing Date
Date to seek leave to add new parties or amend the pleadings	October 9, 2025
Updated joint case-management-conference statement	October 16, 2025
ADR completion date	October 2, 2025
Non-expert discovery completion date	April 17, 2026
Expert disclosures required by Federal Rules of Civil Procedure	March 3, 2026
Rebuttal expert disclosures	April 2, 2026
Expert discovery completion date	May 1, 2026
Last hearing date for dispositive motions and/or further case-management conference	April 2, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.
Final pretrial conference	May 21, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.
Trial	June 1, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.
Length of trial	5 days

III. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The parties agree to participate in mediation with the court's Alternative Dispute Resolution program to occur by the date specified in the above chart if possible. The parties must notify the court promptly if the case resolves.

IV. DISCOVERY PROCEDURES

A. The parties must comply with the procedures regarding discovery and discovery disputes in Judge Beeler's standing order.

B. Each side is limited to ten depositions and twenty-five interrogatories, as provided by Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 30 and 33, absent a further court order.

C. If the ADR specified in the previous section is being conducted before the discovery cut-off deadline, counsel must meet and confer in person or by telephone no later than 21 days before the ADR and **before** preparing any exchanged or confidential settlement statements required by the ADR process. The purpose of the meeting is to identify and exchange whatever discovery is needed for all sides to evaluate the case for settlement. Counsel must cooperate in providing discovery informally and expeditiously before ADR.

[**optional:**] In addition, before the parties participate in the ADR specified in the previous section, each party is limited to three depositions each absent stipulation or a further order of the court.

V. MOTIONS

The parties must file any motions, oppositions, and reply briefs on the schedule set forth in Civil L. R. 7. The parties also must follow all procedures in Judge Beeler's standing order.

VI. PRETRIAL FILINGS AND PROCEDURES

The court's procedures require the parties to confer in person to resolve disputes, reach stipulations, avoid duplicate and cumulative exhibits and witnesses, and ensure an orderly trial. The following sections address filing deadlines and the procedures that the parties must follow when submitting their pretrial filings and exhibits.

A. 30 Days Before Final Pretrial Conference: Serve (But Not File) Motions In Limine.

Each motion must be in a separate memorandum entitled "[Party's Name's] Motion in Limine [#] to Exclude [Subject]," be limited to circumstances requiring advance ruling, and be no longer than seven pages absent leave of court. Usually five motions in limine are sufficient.

B. 23 Days Before Final Pretrial Conference: Serve (But Not File) Oppositions.

Each opposition must be in a separate memorandum entitled "[Parties Name's] Opposition to Motion in Limine [#] to Exclude [Subject]" and be no longer than seven pages absent leave of court. There will be no replies.

1 **C. 21 Days Before Final Pretrial Conference.** The parties must file the following:

2 **1. Motions in Limine.** The moving party will collate and file each motion and opposition
3 back-to-back, which means there will be one paired set for each motion in limine on the docket.

4 **2. Joint Proposed Pretrial Order** (instead of a pretrial conference statement) with the
5 following:

- 6 (a) a brief description of the claims and defenses to be decided;
7 (b) a statement of the relief sought;
8 (c) all stipulated, undisputed facts;
9 (d) all disputed fact issues to be tried, organized by count and described with the same
10 specificity as any contested element in the jury instructions;
11 (e) each disputed legal issue with citations but without extended argument;
12 (f) the parties' stipulations;
13 (g) the parties' estimates of total trial time; and
14 (h) the status of settlement negotiations and whether further negotiations might be productive.

15 The proposed order must specify which issues are for the court to decide instead of the jury.

16 **3. Attachments to Be Appended to the Joint Proposed Order.** The filing must be filed as
17 separate attachments to the joint proposed order:

18 **(a) Signed Stipulations** in a form that can be introduced as evidence at trial;

19 **(b) Joint Exhibit List** with columns for exhibit number, description and bates range, offered
20 into evidence, admitted into evidence, sponsoring witness, and limits on use (*see* below regarding
21 numbering and organization of exhibits); and

22 **(c) Each party's separate witness list** for case-in-chief witnesses (including those appearing
23 by deposition) with a short summary of the testimony, specifying their non-cumulative testimony,
24 and an hour-and-minute time estimate per witness. Experts and witnesses not included in the
25 witness list may not be used in a party's case-in-chief.

26 **(d) Joint proposed verdict form** or separate verdict forms if a joint form is not possible.

27 **(e) Joint voir dire questions supplemented by any separate requests.**
28

(f) **Any proposed jury questionnaire** that differs from the court’s standard questionnaire appended at the end of this order.

4. Joint Jury Instructions (Disputed and Undisputed). The instructions must include a table of contents, be arranged in a logical numerical sequence, and be supported by citations (with pin cites) to the authority for the instruction (*e.g.*, to the Ninth Circuit Model Jury Instructions, the California Civil Jury Instructions, and/or case law). If undisputed, an instruction must be labeled “Stipulated Instruction.” If disputed, the parties’ versions must bear the same instruction number, be labeled with the sponsoring party’s name, and be inserted back to back in the logical place in the overall sequence. If the opposing party does not have a counter instruction and instead contends that no instruction should be given, the party should say so in a separate page inserted in lieu of the alternate instruction. If the parties modify a form instruction, they must identify the modification clearly and include the form instruction in the packet. If the parties agree to form preliminary instructions, general instructions, and concluding instructions, they may cite the numbers of the instructions in the current version of the *Ninth Circuit Manual of Model Civil Jury Instructions* (<http://www.ce9.uscourts.gov>) but do not need to include them in the packet. The parties must include a short statement of the case to be read to the jury during voir dire as part of the preliminary instructions.

5. Separate Memoranda on Disputed Jury Instructions. Each party must file a memorandum of law — organized by instruction number — regarding disputed jury instructions.

6. Trial Briefs on any remaining issues.

7. Copies of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(3) Disclosures. By designating an exhibit, a party generally waives any objection to it if offered by the other side absent clearly available objections (such as objections under Rules 402 and 403 or admissions by party opponents that would be inadmissible hearsay if offered by the party opponent).

8. Chambers Copies of These Materials. The chambers copies of these materials must be submitted in a binder, labeled on the front and spine with the case name and “Trial Submissions,”

and have labeled tabs separating the filings to reflect the organization in this section. The court's standing order requires two chambers copies.

9. Word Versions Emailed To Chambers. In addition to e-filing and lodging paper copies *see* Judge Beeler's standing order, counsel must email the joint proposed order, the jury instructions, and the verdict form in Word to lbpo@cand.uscourts.gov.

D. 14 Days Before Pretrial Conference. The parties must comply with the procedures in sections E through G (below) and then lodge the following:

1. Lodge Joint Sets of Trial Exhibits with Deputy Clerk. The parties must prepare a joint, single set of all trial exhibits. The exhibits must be in three-ring binders, and each exhibit must be tagged and separated by a label divider identifying the exhibit number. Spine labels must identify the exhibits in a particular binder. The exhibit binders must be marked "Original" and will be the official record both at trial with the witnesses and on appeal. The parties also must lodge a second copy of the exhibits labeled "Chambers Copy." Lodge the exhibits with the deputy clerk, Elaine Kabiling. Include (and e-file) any updated exhibit list in each binder.

2. Copies of Deposition Designations For Witnesses Appearing Only By Designation.

3. Copies of Designation of Interrogatories and Admissions.

4. Objections to Exhibits and Use of Depositions as set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(3)(B). Objections not raised are waived.

5. Chambers Copies. The chambers copies of these materials must be submitted in a binder, labeled on the front and spine with the case name and a description of the contents, and have labeled tabs separating the filings to reflect the organization in this section.

E. Other Procedures Regarding Exhibit Numbering and Organization.

1. Meet and Confer Regarding Exhibit Numbers. Before submitting exhibit lists and binders, counsel must meet and confer to establish usable numbering conventions and eliminate duplicate exhibits. Use numbers only, and if possible, exhibit numbers should be the same numbers used in depositions. Otherwise, the deposition transcript must be conformed to the new exhibit number to avoid jury confusion and to ensure that every exhibit has a unique number.

Blocks of numbers should be assigned to fit the needs of the case: *e.g.*, Plaintiff has 1 to 99, Defendant A has 100 to 199, Defendant B has 200 to 299, *et cetera*. All exhibits must be marked “Trial Exhibit No.,” not Plaintiff’s Exhibit or Defendant’s Exhibit. A single exhibit must be marked just once.

2. Exhibit Tags and Binders. The exhibit tag must be in the following form and must be affixed on or near the lower right-hand corner if possible and on the back if it is not. Counsel must fill in the tag but leave the last two spaces blank.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

TRIAL EXHIBIT 100

Case No. _____

Date Entered _____

By _____
Deputy Clerk

F. Deposition Designation For Witnesses Appearing By Deposition. These procedures apply only to deposition designation for witnesses who appear by deposition and do not apply to reading depositions of live witnesses into the record while the witnesses are testifying.

1. Designating Counsel. To designate deposition testimony, counsel must photocopy the cover page, the page where the witness is sworn, and each page with any proffered testimony (with lines through testimony not proffered). Counsel must put lines through objections or colloquy unless they are needed to understand the question. Any corrections (including conforming exhibit numbers to trial exhibit numbers) must be done by hand. The finished packet must be the script that allows smooth presentation of the witness, the oath, and the testimony. The packet must be provided to the other parties at least 30 days before the pretrial conference. For voluminous designations, the court requires advance notice by designating counsel because more lead time is required. Counsel must be reasonable.

2. Reviewing Counsel. Reviewing parties must promptly review the packet and highlight in yellow any passages objected to and write in the margin the legal basis for the objections. If a

1 completeness objection is made, the objecting party must insert the additional passages needed to
2 cure the completeness objection. A completeness objection generally should be made only if a few
3 extra lines will cure the problem. Such additions must be highlighted in blue, and an explanation
4 for the inclusion must be legibly handwritten in the margin. Counsel must line out any irrelevant
5 portions of the additional pages. Reviewing counsel must return the packets to the proffering party
6 to consider whether to accept the adjustments.

7 **3. Counsel To Meet and Confer Regarding Adjustments.** Counsel must meet and confer to
8 address reviewing counsel's comments and any other issues.

9 **4. Designating Counsel To Assemble Final Packet.** Counsel for the proffering party must
10 collate and assemble a final packet that covers all remaining issues and provide it to the court 14
11 days before the pretrial conference (as set forth above). Any objections must be highlighted and
12 annotated as described in the preceding paragraphs. If exhibits are needed to resolve the
13 objections, designating counsel must include copies, with the relevant passages highlighted and
14 tagged. The court will read the packet and make its rulings in the margins in a distinctive manner.

15 **5. Counter-Designations.** The reviewing party must make any counter-designations by
16 providing a packet with the counter-designated passages to the original designating counsel at the
17 same time as the reviewing party returns its objections to designating counsel. The original
18 designating counsel must supply any objections in the manner described in this section.

19 **6. Video Depositions.** The parties must follow the same procedures to facilitate ruling on
20 objections. The videos must omit dead time and objections and colloquy not necessary to
21 understand the answers.

22 **G. Requests For Admissions And Interrogatories.** Counsel must designate responses to
23 requests for admissions and interrogatory answers in the same manner and under the same
24 timetable as deposition designations.

25 **VII. PRETRIAL CONFERENCE**

26 Lead counsel for each party must attend.
27
28

VIII. PRETRIAL ARRANGEMENTS

A. Daily or Real-Time Reporting. Please make arrangements ten days before the trial date with Debra Campbell, Supervisor of the Court Reporting Services, at 415-522-2079.

B. Electronic Presentation of Evidence. The court provides no equipment other than an easel and a white board. If counsel will use electronic equipment such as computers, projectors, and screens, the parties must share equipment to the extent possible. Extension cords must be taped to the carpet for safety. The United States Marshal requires a court order to allow equipment into the courthouse. Please work with Elaine Kabiling (415-522-3140) on all courtroom layout issues.

IX. TRIAL AND TRIAL PROCEDURES

A. Schedule. The trial day is 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (or slightly longer to finish a witness), Monday through Friday, with one fifteen-minute break at 10:45 a.m. Counsel must arrive at 8:15 a.m. or earlier if any matters must be addressed outside of the jury's presence.

B. Jury Selection. There are no alternate jurors in civil cases, and the jury will be selected as follows.

The attached questionnaire will be given to the potential jurors, and copies of the responses will be given to counsel at the beginning of voir dire.

The court's jury selection procedures vary depending on the size of the ultimate jury. Assuming a final jury of 8 and 6 peremptory challenges, the court will call 18 to 20 jurors to fill the jury box and a row in front of the bar. The jurors will be given numbers 1 through 18. The remaining jurors will be seated in the public benches. The court will generally consider hardship excuses at this point. The court then will question the 18 jurors and will allow counsel limited voir dire. The court will address challenges for cause outside of the jurors' presence, determine whether to fill any empty seats, and if so, question the new jurors and consider any additional challenges for cause. After a short recess, each side will exercise its peremptory challenges out of the presence of the jurors. Of the remaining jurors, the eight (or other number of) jurors with the lowest numbers will be the final jury.

1 The court will adjust the starting numbers depending on the number of jurors to be seated and
2 the number of peremptory challenges allowed. Also, the court may alter these procedures in its
3 discretion.

4 Once the jury is selected, the jurors' names will be read, and they will be seated in the jury box
5 and sworn.

6 **C. Jury Note Taking.** Jurors may take notes. Note pads will be distributed at the beginning of
7 each trial and collected at the end of the day and locked in the jury room. The court will instruct
8 the jury on the use of notes in its preliminary and final jury instructions.

9 **D. Time Limits.** Ordinarily, the court sets time limits for opening statements, witness
10 examinations (direct, cross, or re-direct), and closing arguments at the final pretrial conference.
11 All of your examination time for all witnesses must fit within your witness time limits. The time
12 taken at a side bar or on objections will be charged to the examining party unless otherwise
13 ordered.

14 **E. Opening Statements.** Counsel must meet and confer about, and exchange, any visuals,
15 graphics, or exhibits to be used in the opening statements, allowing for time to work out objections
16 and any reasonable revisions. Opening statements begin after the jury is sworn and will be limited
17 to a predetermined time.

18 **F. Advance Notice of Witness Order of Proof.** By 2:00 p.m., counsel must give written
19 notice of the order of witnesses for the next court day and the exhibits (including merely
20 illustrative exhibits) to be used on direct examination (other than for true impeachment of a
21 witness). The parties must notify the court by the end of the day of any objections to the exhibits,
22 and the court will schedule a conference that afternoon or the following morning to resolve the
23 dispute. The court encourages two days' notice. If two days' notice is given, then by 2:00 p.m. on
24 the calendar day immediately preceding the testimony, opposing counsel must provide any
25 objections to the exhibits and must provide a list of all exhibits to be used with the same witness
26 on cross-examination (other than for impeachment).

1 **G. Witness Examinations.** Generally there must be only one examining lawyer per witness
2 per party, and the examining lawyer must make any objections to the opposing counsel's
3 examination. The parties must have witnesses ready to testify so that trial gaps are avoided. Gaps
4 may be construed as resting one's case. In cases with multiple parties, counsel must coordinate
5 cross-examination to avoid duplication of testimony. When multiple parties are on one side, only
6 one counsel may cover a subject matter. Counsel must place copies of exhibits to be used by a
7 witness on the witness stand before the witness testifies.

8 Witnesses (except named parties) are excluded from the courtroom except when they are
9 testifying. If a testifying witness has not been excused before a recess, that witness must be seated
10 back on the stand when the court reconvenes. If a new witness is ready to be called immediately
11 after a recess, the witness must be in the first row after the recess.

12 The appropriate party or the court may read into the record the undisputed facts at appropriate
13 points in the trial.

14 **H. Expert Testimony.** Direct expert testimony is limited to matters disclosed in the expert's
15 reports. Omitted material ordinarily may not be added on direct examination. Illustrative
16 animations, diagrams, charts, and models may be used on direct examination only if they were part
17 of the expert report, except that an expert may use simple drawings (such as those drawn by the
18 witness at trial) that plainly illustrate a report's contents. If cross-examination fairly opens the
19 door, however, an expert may go beyond the written report on cross-examination and/or re-direct
20 examination. By written stipulation, all parties may relax these requirements. As to damages
21 studies, the cut-off for *past damages* is the date of the expert report (or an earlier date selected or
22 used by the expert). Experts may project *future damages* after this cut-off date if they can meet
23 substantive standards for future damages. With timely leave of court or by written stipulation, the
24 experts may update their reports (or provide supplemental reports) to a date closer to the time of
25 trial.

I. Use of Depositions To Impeach A Trial Witness. The following procedures apply.

1. On the first day of trial, counsel must bring the original and clean copies of the depositions to be used at trial. If counsel might use a deposition against a witness, counsel must provide the court with a copy at the outset of the examination. Opposing counsel must have copies of witness depositions immediately available.

2. Counsel must seek permission from the court before reading a passage into the record. For example, counsel should state, “I wish to read page 210, lines 1 to 10, from the witness’s deposition.” Counsel must pause briefly to allow any objection.

3. The first time counsel reads a deposition, counsel must state the deponent’s name, the name of the lawyer asking the question, and whether the deposition was a Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(b)(6) deposition. The first time a deposition is read, the court will instruct the jury about depositions.

4. When reading the passage, counsel must employ the following technique. Counsel must state, “question” and then read the question exactly, and then state, “answer” and read the answer exactly. This will allow the jury and court reporter to follow who said what at the deposition. Opposing counsel may ask to read additional testimony necessary to complete the context. It is not necessary to ask, “didn’t you say XYZ in your deposition” to lay a foundation.

J. Use of Depositions of Party-Opponents. Subject to Rule 403, a party-opponent’s depositions may be used for “any purpose” and may be read into the record whether or not they contradict (and regardless of who is on the stand). For example, a short party deposition excerpt may be used as foundation for questions for a different witness on the stand.

K. Use of Depositions For Witnesses Appearing Only By Deposition. When the packet (*see* above for procedures to assemble deposition packets) is read to the jury, the examiner must read the questions (and any relevant colloquy) from the lectern while a colleague sits in the witness stand and reads the answers. While reading the deposition, the reader and “witness” must refrain from undue emphasis or dramatization. If a read-in is short, a single attorney can read it all, being careful to say “question” and “answer” for the court reporter’s and jury’s comprehension.

Exhibits may be projected onto the screen as they are referenced. Court reporters do not transcribe video excerpts so counsel must file an exact copy of what was shown.

L. Exhibits. The parties must obtain prior permission from the court for jury notebooks. At the end of each day, counsel must confer with each other and with the deputy clerk to confirm what exhibits are in evidence and any limitations on their use. Counsel must bring any differences to the court's attention. Similarly, before closing argument, counsel must confer with each other and the deputy clerk to finalize the exhibits and prepare any final exhibit list. That list may include a brief non-argumentative description of the exhibit to help the jury access the exhibits.

M. Stipulations. Counsel must read all stipulations to the jury for them to be part of the record.

N. Objections. Counsel must stand when making objections, give only the legal basis ("objection, calls for speculation" or "objection, hearsay"), and refrain from making speeches.

O. Side Bar Conferences are discouraged. If matters must be discussed outside the jury's presence, counsel should raise them at the beginning or end of the day or while the jury is on break.

P. Charging Conference. Before the close of evidence, the court will provide draft final jury instructions to the parties and allow a reasonable time for review. Thereafter, the court will hold one or more charging conferences to address objections, modifications, or additions to the instructions. The parties must renew any specific instruction request — including those requested pretrial — at the conference or it will be deemed waived. For example, if a party wants to request an instruction that the court omitted from its draft instructions, the party must re-request it at the charging conference or the request will be deemed waived or abandoned.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: May 30, 2025



LAUREL BEELER
United States Magistrate Judge

CONFIDENTIAL
JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE

Please fill out this form as completely as possible and print clearly. Do not write on the back of any page. Instead, if you need more room, use the space at the end. Thank you.

1. Your name: _____
2. Your age: _____
3. City in which you reside: _____
4. Your place of birth: _____
5. Do you rent or own your own home? _____
6. Are you married or do you have a domestic partner? ____ Yes ____ No
7. Please list the occupation of your spouse or domestic partner.

8. If you are not married and do not have a domestic partner, are you (circle one, if applicable):
 single separated divorced widowed
9. If you have children, please list their ages and sex and, if they are employed, please give their occupations.

10. What is your occupation and how long have you worked in it? (If you are retired, please describe your main occupation when you were working).

11. Who is (or was) your employer?

12. How long have you worked for this employer? _____

13. Please describe your education background:

Highest grade completed: _____

College and/or vocational schools you have attended:

Major areas of study: _____

14. Have you ever had jury experience? _____ Number of times? _____

If yes: State/County Court _____ Federal Court _____

When? _____ Was it a civil or criminal case? _____

Did any of the juries reach a verdict? ____ Yes ____ No